Working to help put our economy back on track and bring jobs to our district, Rep. Debbie Halvorson (IL-11) announced today that grant funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, supported by Halvorson last winter, will go towards job training for ironworkers in the 11th District.

"When I voted for the stimulus bill, I knew it would be very important to include training money for the next generation of green jobs. With projects such as wind farms going up throughout the district, and iron workers helping to construct them, I'm very pleased to see these stimulus funds going directly to the 11<sup>th</sup> for job training for my constituents."

The program receiving the funding, the National Ironworkers and Employers Apprenticeship Training and Journeyman Upgrading Fund, will increase the number of skilled ironworkers throughout the 11th District, which provides greater opportunities for good-paying jobs that will stay right here in Illinois. The award totals \$1,943,931, and the Joliet location is only one of five locations in the country to share in this funding.

"This funding will help bring highly skilled, good paying jobs right here to the working men and women of Illinois," said Ron Zier of Ironworkers Local 444. "We're glad to work side by side with Congresswoman Halvorson in our efforts to put Illinoisans back to work in jobs that will stay right here."

The grant, provided through the Department of Labor's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act fund, is aimed at providing training and placement services in the green jobs sector on the local level.

"I look forward to continue to fight for funding to create green jobs throughout our district," said Halvorson. "These jobs are the future, and they mean a brighter, cleaner, greener future for our families."